

RRB Encourages Direct Deposit Enrollment

October 14 is National Direct Deposit Sign-Up Day and the Railroad Retirement Board is encouraging its beneficiaries to enroll in the Direct Deposit program. With Direct Deposit, payments are sent directly from the U.S. Treasury Department to recipients' checking or savings accounts at banks, credit unions or savings and loan institutions.

Enrollment in Direct Deposit provides many advantages not available with a paper check:

Simplicity—Those enrolled in Direct Deposit have their payments automatically available in their accounts on the morning of the payment date. There is no need to make a special trip to cash or deposit a check.

Safety—Studies have shown that recipients are 20 times more likely to have a problem with a paper check than with a Direct Deposit transaction. Each year, Treasury replaces more than 800,000 checks that are lost, stolen or damaged during delivery.

Security—The Federal Government annually experiences over \$60 million in forged checks, \$1.8 million in counterfeit checks and \$3.3 million in altered checks. Forgeries, counterfeiting and check alterations are not possible with a Direct Deposit transaction.

In addition, Direct Deposit provides recipients of Federal payments with a simple, safe and secure method to receive their money, while saving taxpayers the costs of processing paper checks. A check costs the Government approximately 45 cents to process and mail. An electronic transfer to a Direct Deposit account costs 4 cents to process. Full conversion from paper checks to Direct Deposit would save approximately \$100 million annually.

Direct Deposit has proved to be a popular choice for millions of Federal beneficiaries. Over 70 percent of railroad retirement annuitants and over 85 percent of the claimants for railroad unemployment and sickness insurance benefits currently receive their benefits through Direct Deposit.

Enrolling in Direct Deposit is easy. Annuitants may simply telephone, write or visit the nearest Railroad Retirement Board field office to start Direct Deposit or to make Direct Deposit-related changes. They may also enroll in the program through their financial institution.

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